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P 270516Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9282
INFO RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 5194
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY 2416
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY 7267
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1079
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 2154
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 9419
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 1433
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2986
RUEHUM/AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR PRIORITY 0112
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 5262
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY 5115
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY 3398
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY 3304
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UNCLAS CANBERRA 000298

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STATE FOR G KELLEY CURRIE AND EAP

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: INTERIM AUSTRALIAN COMMENTS ON THE ASIA PACIFIC
DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP

REF: A) STATE 28071 B) CANBERRA 276 C) JAKARTA 588

11. (U) This message contains an action request - please see
para 6 below.

12. (SBU) On March 26, poloff spoke with Evan Gallagher of the
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT)
International Organizations Branch, who has been designated
the action officer of the Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership
(APDP), and to Marina Tsirbas, Director of the U.S. Political
and Strategic Section regarding ref A nonpaper. Gallagher
said DFAT would respond in detail to the nonpaper as soon as
possible (ref B) but he did have some initial comments.

13. (SBU) Gallagher asked what the U.S. saw as the
relationship between the Indonesia's Bali Democracy Forum and
the APDP. Is the U.S. interested in participating in the
Bali Forum? Gallagher queried whether Jakarta would still
participate in the APDP given its interest in the Bali
Democracy Forum. (NOTE: See ref C on Australia and the Bali
Democracy Forum).

14. (SBU) Gallagher also asked if the U.S. had briefed China
yet on the APDP, and if so, what had been its reaction.
Another question from Gallagher was why Malaysia and
Singapore were not participating in the APDP. Was it because
they were not part of the Community of Democracies?

15. (SBU) Gallagher noted that in addition to answers to the
questions above, DFAT would be interested in seeing specific
proposals for a meeting so that it could respond more
directly. In any event, he said they would give their
comments on the nonpaper as soon as practicable.

16. (U) ACTION REQUESTED: Embassy requests responses to DFAT
questions in paras 3 through 5 above.

CLUNE